

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 02183 221810Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----084169 221815Z /47

O P 221615Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3729 IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2183
EXDIS
E.O. 11652 XGDS-3
TAGS: EAID, SHUM, PORG, AFDF, GV
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE --AFDF GUINEA
REF: A) STATE 278187
B) ABIDJAN 11361

1. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT CHARGE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI TO MAKE DEMARCHE REFTEL A MUCH BEFORE END OF WEEK OWING TO TWIN LOCAL HOLIDAYS PLUS LEADERSHIP'S INVOLVEMENT WITH MORE THAN 30 FOREIGN DELEGATIONS ATTENDING NOVEMBER 22 ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES.

2. SINCE REFTEL A LIKELY TO GET U.S. INTO CONFRONTATION MODE WITH GOG FOR FIRST TIME SINCE TU-95 ISSUE WAS SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, IT SEEMS LOGICAL TO ASSURE BEAVOGUI ALSO OF SENIOR-LEVEL DEPARTMENT DECISION OCTOBER 18 APPROVING FY 78 PL-480 COMMODITIES FOR GUINEA. REQUEST IMMEDIATE AUTHORIZATION TO DO SO. ACCORDING TO NOVEMBER 19 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE 5.5 MILLION DOLLAR PROGRAM HAS BEEN APPROVED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY. BEAVOGUI THEREFORE WILL ALREADY BE AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM CHARGE.

3. AFDF ISSUE REQUIRES WE FACE SQUARELY WHAT WE WANT IN GUINEA. UNTIL NOW OUR CHIEF AMIS HAVE BEEN TO ENCOURAGE GREATER GOG
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NON-ALIGNMENT AND MORE DECENT GUINEAN RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. BLOCKING AFDF LOAN--OR SIMILAR FUTURE ACTIONS--IS LIKELY TO ADVANCE NEITHER AIM BUT RATHER RETURN US TO ERA OF STERILE CONFRONTATION WITH SEKOU TOURE. GUINEA'S PAST HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IS UNDENIABLY POOR. BUT EMBASSY FAILS TO SEE HOW GRATUITOUS CONFRONTATIONAL GESTURES--STICKS WITHOUT CARROTS--CAN GAIN US MUCH MORE THAN A DOMESTIC POSTURE OF RECTITUDE.

4. AS EMBASSY SEES GUINEA AT PRESENT, GOG AT VARIOUS LEVELS IS HIGHLY DISSATISFIED WITH 18 YEARS OF SOVIET PREDOMINANCE. SOVIETS ARE EXACERBATING THIS FEELING WITH HAM-HANDED PRESSURE ON GOG, E.G. BY DICKERING NIGGARDLY OVER GASOLINE DELIVERIES AND SPARE AVIATION PARTS. BY CONTRAST MFA SOURCE TOLD CHARGE NOVEMBER

20 THAT US-GUINEA RELATIONS HAVE "NEVER BEEN BETTER HE REMARKED ON HOW GUINEAN MEDIA GAVE U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISIT AND EXHIBIT OPENING NEARLY EQUAL TREATMENT WITH USSR'S OCTOBER REVOLUTION. MEDIA CALLED THESE VASTLY DISPARATE EVENTS "TWO PETALS OF WEEK'S FLOWER." LOCAL SOURCES CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT SOVIET POSITION HERE CAN ONLY CONTINUE TO ERODE IF U.S. PLAYS ITS CARDS RIGHT.

5. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE POTENTIAL PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT HAND FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS. ICRC'S LETTER HAS BEEN DELIVERED AND GOG SEEMS TO BE ON VERGE OF RECEIVING ICRC DELEGATION. PRESIDENT TOURE'S HANDLING OF AUGUST RIOTS WAS, AS IT TURNED OUT, NOTABLY RESTRAINED BY GUINEA'S PAST NORMS. ONLY ONE MINISTER, ONE MUSLIM OFFICIAL, TWO PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS, PLUS A HANDFUL OF SMALLER FRY ARE STILL BEING DETAINED. LOCAL SOURCES SAY ALL REPEAT ALL WOMEN DEMONSTRATORS (HUNDREDS) WERE RELEASED. COMPARISON WITH IDI AMIN'S UGANDA IS LUDICROUS. TOURE'S CAUTION MAY WELL STEM FROM HIS AWARENESS THAT U.S. HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST TO TALK HUMAN-RIGHTS TURKEY QUIETLY TO BEAVOGUI. CONFIDENTIAL

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6. IF U.S. EMBARKS NOW ON TOO RECKLESS A POLICY OF PUBLIC RPT PUBLIC SLAPS AT TOURE WHICH ARE POORLY INTEGRATED INTO "COOPERATION DIALOGUE" WITH GOG, WE PLAINLY RISK SNATCHING DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY IN GUINEA. MAINLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CONAKR02183
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770433-0142
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771132/aaaabayc.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 96972e14-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 278187
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 498104
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE --AFDF GUINEA
TAGS: EAID, SHUM, PORG, GV, AFDF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/96972e14-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009